

## **IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM JANUARY 2012 UPDATE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2012 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

This month's Irrigated Agricultural Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) monthly report will provide an update on activities of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) ILRP, as reported in the Central Valley Water Board's February 2012 Executive Officer's report. Current and past ILRP program monthly reports can be found on the State Water Board Irrigated Agricultural Lands Regulatory Program website:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/agriculture/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/)

For specific program information on the Central Valley Water Board ILRP, contact Mr. Joe Karkoski, program manager, at 916- 464-4668.

For additional information on the statewide ILRP, please contact State Water Board staff:

Johnny Gonzales	(916) 341-5510	<a href="mailto:jgonzales@waterboards.ca.gov">jgonzales@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
Gita Kapahi	(916) 341-5501	<a href="mailto:gkapahi@waterboards.ca.gov">gkapahi@waterboards.ca.gov</a>

### **CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM (ILRP)**

#### **Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program**

Staff met with a representative of the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) organization on 14 November 2012. During this meeting staff and FFF discussed potential ways that FFF may support growers in the long-term program.

On 16 November 2012 staff spoke to the California League of Food Processors about the status of the long-term program and potential new groundwater requirements. Food processors were concerned that new requirements could be designed to prevent continued use of suitable wastewater to irrigate cropland.

On 28 November 2012 Central Valley Water Board staff met with State Water Board staff to discuss the potential for utilizing the Geotracker database for long-term irrigated lands program data management. During this meeting, State Water Board staff indicated that the Geotracker system could easily provide data management support to the irrigated lands program (as outlined in a draft business plan developed by staff). Currently, State Water Board management is reviewing the Central Valley Water Board staff-developed business plan for irrigated lands program data management. Next steps include discussions with Geotracker program staff and water quality coalitions to determine the best methods for coordinating data management with coalitions.

On December 13 -15, 2012, staff gave presentations to East-side San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition members regarding the status of the long-term irrigated lands program. Growers asked questions regarding potential groundwater requirements and whether the Board intended to regulate other pollution sources such as golf courses and urban fertilizer/pesticide use.

**East-side San Joaquin River Watershed WDR** – On 13 December 2012 staff met with the coalition to discuss draft surface water monitoring requirements. Based on the discussion, staff has revised surface monitoring requirements and developed draft WDRs and a draft monitoring

program for surface and groundwater. These draft documents will be provided to the Coalition for review and discussion during meetings in January 2012.

**Sacramento River Watershed Rice WDR** –On 30 November 2012, staff met with the California Rice Commission (CRC) to discuss draft WDRs and draft groundwater monitoring requirements. During this meeting the CRC agreed to provide proposals for draft groundwater monitoring requirements for staff consideration.

On 15 December 2012 staff met with the CRC to discuss draft documents provided by the Commission. These documents included concepts and concerns regarding staff proposed WDRs and monitoring requirements and a set of principles for development of long-term program requirements. During this meeting, the CRC offered to develop a draft monitoring and reporting program and related supporting technical information for staff review. In the January-March 2012 time frame, staff and CRC will meet to continue working on the administrative draft WDR and MRP, which will be available for interested party review.

#### **Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition (SSFVWQC)**

On 15 November 2012, staff met with the SSJVWQC to discuss development of the Long Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Topics included further discussion of proposed tier three (high vulnerability) groundwater areas, monitoring strategies, and reporting requirements.

#### **Enforcement**

##### **California Water Code section 13260 & 13267 Orders, & Notices of Violation**

In December 2011, the ILRP mailed an NOV for failure to respond to a CWC §13267 Order. The October 2011 13267 Order was issued to a landowner in Contra Costa County after staff observed sediment-laden waters being discharged from an agricultural operation on the parcel.

#### **Compliance & Outreach – Postcards**

In November 2011 ILRP staff mailed 45 postcards to non-participating landowners in Placer and Nevada Counties. ILRP staff screened these landowners' parcels using aerial photography to target agricultural operations with the potential to discharge waste to surface waters.

In December 2011, ILRP staff mailed an additional 43 postcards to non-participating landowners within San Joaquin Counties' portion of the Legal Delta Boundaries. This postcard list was also screened using aerial photography.

#### **Compliance & Outreach - Exemption Claim Inspections**

In November and December 2011, Central Valley Water Board staff completed 16 inspections to verify landowner exemption claims to the ILRP. Landowners can respond to ILRP staff's postcards or 13267 Orders by claiming their land is not used for agriculture, not irrigated, or that it has no irrigation tail water or storm water runoff (no waste discharges to surface waters). These claims create a need for verification inspections. Staff verified that the lands associated with 13 of these inspections were exempt from regulatory coverage under the ILRP. Additional investigation will be required to complete the remaining inspections.

#### **Coalition Groups**

##### **California Rice Commission (CRC)**

On 30 December 2011, the CRC submitted their draft annual monitoring report, which addresses requirements of both the rice pesticide program and the irrigated lands regulatory program. The report is currently under review.

### **East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition**

On 2 November 2011, staff held the 13th quarterly meeting with the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition to discuss progress of implementing the coalition's Management Plan, performance goals, recent monitoring site exceedances, and waste discharge requirements time line.

On 1 December 2011, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition submitted its Quarterly Monitoring Data Report for the period July through September, as required by Order No. R5-2006-0053. After review, these data will be posted on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program web site.

### **Goose Lake Coalition**

On 3 November 2011, Board staff attended the coalition's fall meeting in New Pine Creek. Representatives from the Upper Feather Watershed Group and Northeastern Water Quality Coalition were in attendance. Staff gave an update of the Long-term program and discussed the possibility of the coalition merging with Sac Valley Coalition under one WDR Order.

Quarterly monitoring reports submitted on 30 November 2011 indicate that there were no exceedances of water quality trigger limits during 2011.

### **Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC)**

On 1 November 2011 staff attended the annual Dixon-area meeting of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition. Staff presented information on the forthcoming WDR Order for the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition.

The Annual Reports for the two Pilot Watershed Management Practices Plans (Pilot Plans) for El Dorado County and the Napa-Putah Creek watersheds were reviewed by staff and approved through a letter from the Executive Officer dated 14 November 2011.

Board staff met with Coalition representatives on 5 December 2011 to begin planning for development of the coalition's new WDR Order, which is scheduled for a Board Hearing in May 2013.

On 5 December 2011, a letter approving the Sacramento Valley 2012 Water Quality Monitoring Plan was sent from the Executive Officer to the coalition. The coalition submitted the compiled water quality monitoring data for the third quarter on 5 December 2011.

On 5 December 2011, a letter was sent from the Executive Officer to the coalition detailing a revised set of deliverable dates for various management plan process steps. These changes are necessary to reduce coalition and Board staff workload while attention is turned towards the development of a WDR Order. The letter also indicates that some of the outstanding management plan issues will be addressed in the new Order. Regional Board staff met with coalition representatives on 13 December 2011 to review the coalition's source identification progress and reporting for eight management plans. Staff gave presentations to grower meetings in Glenn, Sutter, Colusa and Lake Counties on December 6, 8, 16 - 2011 respectively. Staff discussed the current Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and described the process and some of the content of the new WDR. Staff also participated in the 16 December 2011 meeting in Lake County.

### **San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition**

On 3 November 2011, staff held the 13th quarterly meeting with the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition to discuss progress of implementing the coalition's Management Plan, performance goals, and potential monitoring site revisions.

On 17 November 2011, staff attended the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition Board Meeting. Staff discussed the process for developing the coalition's WDR Order for the Long-Term ILRP and answered questions about proposed elements of the new program.

On 1 December 2011, the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition submitted a request to add Roberts Island at Whiskey Slough Pump and remove Roberts Island Drain along House Road and Roberts Island Drain at Holt Road from the Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan. The request is supported by information which indicates that the Roberts Island at Whiskey Slough Pump site is more representative of the island's discharges than the other two sites combined. The request is currently under staff review.

On 1 December 2011, the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition submitted its Quarterly Monitoring Data Report for the period July through September, as required by Order No. R5-2006-0053. After review, these data will be posted on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program web site.

On 12 December 2011, staff participated in the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition Steering Committee meeting in Stockton. Attendees discussed groundwater and the Mercury TMDL Basin Plan Amendment.

#### **Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition (SSJVWQC)**

On 4 November 2011, staff met with the Kings River Sub-watershed to discuss required Management Plans at five of the Sub-watershed monitoring sites. Staff clarified the requirements of the MRP Order regarding submittal of Management Plans and requested the required documents be submitted.

On 7 December 2011, staff met with the Kern River Sub-watershed to discuss required Management Plans at four of the Sub-watershed monitoring sites. Staff provided the Sub-watershed with examples of approved Management Plans and requested a schedule for Management Plan development be submitted.

On 13 December 2011, staff received a schedule for Management Plan development from the Tule River Subwatershed. Staff reviewed the submittal and will be scheduling a meeting to clarify the requirements of the MRP Order and provide the Sub-watershed with examples of approved Management Plans.

#### **Westlands Coalition**

On 21 November 2011, staff received a draft Management Plan addressing water quality issues identified within the Coalition's three primary watersheds. The Management Plan is under review.

#### **Westside Coalition**

On 2 November 2011, staff held the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition quarterly meeting to discuss Management Plan and Focused Management Plan updates and water quality data.

On 30 November 2011, the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition submitted its Semi Annual Monitoring Report for the period March through August 2011. The SAMR is under staff review.

### **Other Projects**

#### **Data Management**

Data reports received through 1 December 2011 that arrived in an electronic SWAMP comparable format are currently being prepared for loading into a California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) comparable database provided by the Central Valley Regional Data Center (CV RDC). These reports and future data sets will be sent to the CV RDC to be uploaded into CEDEN for state-wide assessment efforts. At this time, 51 reports have been successfully processed and loaded into the CEDEN comparable database. The next round of data reports is due in March 2012.

Concurrent with processing and loading of submitted electronic data, data submission feedback packages were developed to assist the coalitions with formatting and reviewing their monitoring data. The feedback packages allow the coalitions to correct errors and meet the electronic data submittal requirements of the program. The feedback packages contain guidance documents, electronic versions of quality assurance project plans, review checklists and code look up lists. At this time, all of the coalitions have received a feedback package. All new data submissions will be reviewed against the checklist provided to the coalition in the initial feedback package. The filled out checklist will be provided to the coalition as a real-time communication effort. Future data submittals requiring extensive corrections will be returned to the coalition for revision. After the data is successfully processed and loaded, the coalition will be provided with a query of the data as it appears in the database.

#### **Prop 84 Grant Funding**

The first project under the grant program has been completed. The project involved the installation of a drip system in San Joaquin County. Those receiving grant funds are required to provide a 50% match for the project. Other projects are expected to be completed prior to the start of the 2012 planting season. Applications for the next round of funding are expected to close in January with review by the Advisory Selection Committee in February 2012.